(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to obsolete technology used by Indian miners, the country has been deficient in high-value minerals; and

(d) the total mineral production of the country during the last 3 years; year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), in consultation with the Department of Mines, has so far approved 73 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining sector. The likely investment in these cases will be about Rs. 4,044 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir. The geological setting and metallogenetic history of India is similar to mineral rich Australia, South Africa and Antarctica. However, due to low investment and lack of advanced state-of-the-art technology for detailed exploration, deep-seated high value minerals have not yet been fully discovered.

(d) The value of total mineral production of the country (excluding atomic minerals) during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Provisional)	2003-2004 (Provisional)
Value (in Rs. crores)	60,832	63,540	66.308

Coking coal reserves

2397. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that good quality coking coal reserve have depleted and the washeries are not getting coal of superior quality in desired quantity to yield clean coal: and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Extractable reserves of

superior quality coking coal have been depleting over the years, reasons for which are as under:

- Upper coal seams of Jharia coalfield having the major reserve of coking coal have been exhausted to a great extent since the mines here are very old.
- The coalfield is having fire over huge area.
- Waterlogged overlying underground workings and caved goaves restrict working in underlying seams.
- Lower coal seams are of poor quality.

In view of low production of good quality coking coal, raw coal feed of such coal to the washeries have also decreased.

(b) To augment coking coal production, Coal India Limited (CIL) have planned to take up three new coking coal projects, 2 in X Plan *viz.* Bermo Opencast (OC) (0.5 Mty) and Topa OC (1.20 Mty) and 1 in XIth Plan namely Kedla OC (2.0Mty) in Central Coal fields Limited (CCL).

Additionally dismantling of Dhandbad-Patherdih Railway line at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) will unlock about 10 Million tones of metallurgical coking coal which will be extracted during Tenth Plan period.

Private investment in mines and minerals sector

†2398. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed private investment in mines and minerals sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As per the National Minerals Policy (NMP), 1993 the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector has been thrown open for private investment including Foreign Direct Investment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.